

AUG 08 2002

Version with markings to show changes made:

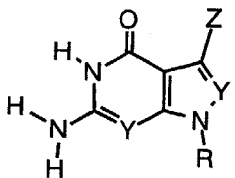
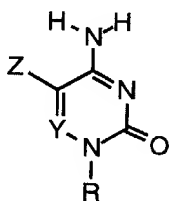
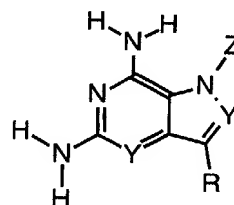
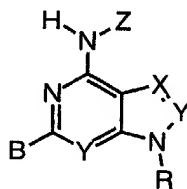
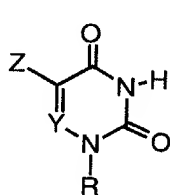
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

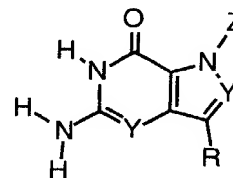
Please make the following amendments to the claims specified below:

Claim 3 (amended). An [The] improvement [of claim 1 wherein said nucleobase is] in a method for creating a ligand for a target compound, said method comprising:

- a) synthesizing a mixture of oligonucleotides from nucleotide building blocks each of the oligonucleotides having a region of randomized sequence,
 - b) contacting said mixture with the target, wherein oligonucleotides having an increased affinity to the target relative to others in the mixture may be partitioned from the remainder of the mixture,
 - c) partitioning the oligonucleotides with increased affinity from the other oligonucleotides in the mixture,
 - d) amplifying the oligonucleotides having increased affinity *in vitro* to yield a mixture of oligonucleotides enriched in those with increased affinity for said target,
- wherein the improvement comprises including among said nucleotide building blocks those carrying nucleobases selected from the group consisting of

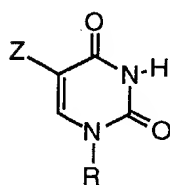


, and

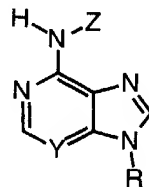


wherein -R designates the point of attachment to the ribose or 2'-deoxyribose ring, B is selected from the group consisting of -H or -NH₂, X is either a nitrogen atom or a carbon atom bearing a substituent Z, Z is [either a hydrogen,] an unfunctionalized lower alkyl, alkynyl, or alkyl-alkynyl chain, or a lower alkyl, alkynyl, or alkyl-alkynyl chain bearing an amino, carboxyl, hydroxy, thiol, aryl, indole, or imidazolyl group, Y is either N or CH, and the ring contains no more than three nitrogens consecutively bonded.

Claim 4 (amended). The improvement of Claim [1] 3 wherein said nucleobase is selected from the group consisting of



, and



wherein -R designates the point of attachment to the ribose or 2'-deoxyribose ring, and wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of -C≡C-CH₂-NH₂, -C≡C-CH₂-SH, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-NH₂, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-SH, -CH₂-NH₂, -CH₂-SH, CH₂CH₂-NH₂, -CH₂CH₂-SH,